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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 9 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the sixteenth round of the Geneva Discussions and on the foiled act of terrorism of 6 June 2011 (see annexes I and II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes were circulated as a document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander Lomaia
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the identical letters dated 9 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the foiled act of terrorism of 6 June 2011

On 6 June 2011, another act of terrorism was foiled by the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs: Georgian law enforcement officers detained Badri Gogiashvili in the Mtskheta district and seized (and later defused) a quantity of explosives in his possession.

According to Mr. Gogiashvili's testimony, he was acting under the direction of Alexey Sokolov, deputy chief of the Russian border guards stationed in Akhalgori, Vladimer Pukhaev, chief of the Akhalgori Militia, and Vova Kibilov, a member of the Akhalgori Militia, who ordered him to target a building in Tbilisi flying the flag of an international organization or of the European Union or United States.

These persons selected the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Liaison Office building as a target for a terrorist attack, and instructed Mr. Gogiashvili to detonate a bomb nearby. Mr. Gogiashvili was promised the sum of $2,000 for carrying out this act of terrorism.

This incident indicates that Russia is continuing to pursue its deliberate efforts to stage acts of terrorism in Georgia.

The Russian Federation and its special services are continuing their criminal policy directed against the Georgian State — a policy which displays clear signs of State terrorism.

The Georgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls upon the international community to categorically demand that Russia desist from all terrorist activity against Georgia, and that it commit to the non-use of force as well as to the full de-occupation of Georgian territory.

Tbilisi, 7 June 2011

Annex II to the identical letters dated 9 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the sixteenth round of the Geneva Discussions

The sixteenth round of the Geneva talks was held on 7 June 2011, where the issues of security and stability in Georgia's occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions and the safe and dignified return of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to the places of their habitual residence were discussed. Meetings of the two working groups were held, in which participants took part in an individual capacity. Deliberations were moderated by the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and attended by the participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States. The head of the provisional administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District, Dimitri Sanakoev, and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, Giorgi Baramia, took part in the sixteenth round of the Geneva talks. Representatives of the proxy regimes from Tskhinvali and Sokhumi also participated in the working groups. Working group meetings were preceded by information sessions on (1) the non-use of force and international security arrangements and (2) the end of displacement.

During the Geneva Discussions, Georgia demanded that the Russian Federation immediately stop the State-sponsored terror campaign, which has become disturbingly active during the last few months. In only the first days of June 2011 Georgia's law enforcement agencies foiled two terrorist attacks, while a number of attacks were prevented in March and April 2011. These attempts were preceded by several terrorist acts in 2010, as a result of which two persons were killed. There is overwhelming evidence that all these terror attempts were masterminded and undertaken from the occupied regions of Georgia by Federal Security Service and Main Intelligence Directorate officials, whose identities are established. The Georgian side once again handed over to Russia all the materials necessary to cooperate with Georgia's investigation and to conduct its own investigation on the Russian side. Unfortunately, the Russian Federation failed to respond to Georgian requests, as it did during the previous Geneva round.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia would like to urge the Russian Federation to immediately halt any terrorist activities. Terrorism cannot be negotiated or appeased. The Georgian side does not intend to discuss topics related to security or humanitarian issues with Russia in Geneva, or elsewhere, while Moscow continues to mastermind terrorist attacks on the territory of Georgia. If this organized terror campaign continues, the Georgian side will have no other choice but to reconsider its attitude towards the Geneva Discussions. By the same token, we would like to urge the international community to take up the issue of terrorist acts with the Russian Government at all levels.

In the second working group Georgian participants proposed to the Russian Federation to continue negotiations in good spirit on the return of the IDPs and refugees to their homes and the reversal of ethnic cleansing, in line with Russia's

international obligations, including those stemming from the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. As noted by the International Court of Justice, a dispute exists between the Russian Federation and Georgia on the return of the IDPs and their ethnic cleansing in the occupied regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia. In order to facilitate the solution to this long-standing dispute in the frames of the Geneva Discussions Georgia, once again expressed readiness to continue diplomatic negotiations with Russia to reverse the results of ethnic cleansing. Unfortunately, as during the previous rounds of the Geneva Discussions, the Russian Federation refused to discuss the issue of safe and dignified return. The Russian side continues to challenge the internationally accepted principle of the safe and dignified return of the IDPs and refugees to their homes. The Georgian side will continue raising this issue during the next rounds of the Geneva talks as well.

Participants agreed to hold the seventeenth round of the Geneva talks on 4 October 2011.

Tbilisi, 8 June 2011